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O R D I N A R Y S E A M A N

Being a Narrative of the Adventures and
Experiences of Richard Lowry, ordinary
seaman on board the Steamship Stanley
Dollar from San Francisco to New York,
and on board the Steamship Diana Dollar
from New York to San Francisco, during
the months of July, August, September
and October 1923, as told in letters.

Being a narrative of the adventures and
experiences of Richard Lower, originally
written on board the steamship Stanley
en route from San Francisco to New York,
and on board the steamship Diana Polier
from New York to San Francisco, during
the months of July, August, September
and October 1882, as told in letters.

Mr. Robert Lowry, at son
7. 19. 1927, July 19, 1927

Dear Father

Just a week from the day we pulled out of

Additional information supplied by the donor, Richard
Simms Lowry, Jr. (b. 1936), son of the author:

Author's full name: Richard Simms Lowry (1906-1966).

Manuscript typed and edited by author's father, Russell Lowry
(1874-1946).

July 19, 1927, 10:30 P.M. and finally turned in after a
12-hour day.

The first day out I had a talk with the steward about
the work. I learned that they had planned on giving us the
book but when Mr. Egbert saw it he told the captain not to
give it to us. The big stiff. Well, anyway, we are entitled

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(1874-1948).

On board Steamer Stanley Dollar, at sea
7. a. m. Thursday, July 19, 1923

Dear folks:

Today is just a week from the day we pulled out of Pedro. We arrived at Pedro at 5:30 a.m. and ~~as~~ we had to get up and make our lines fast, etc. We worked the rest of the day on our regular routine. After supper they told us that none of us could go ashore and made us stand by. We pulled out about 10:30 p.m. and finally turned in after a 16-hour day.

The first day out I had a talk with the steward about the room. I learned that they had planned on giving us the room but when Mr. Egbert saw it he told the captain not to give it to us. The big stiff. Well, anyway, we are settled

On board Steamer Stanley Hotel, at sea
7.2.22 Thursday, July 13, 1922

Dear Folks:

Today is just a week from the day we pulled out of
Petro. We arrived at Petro at 8:30 a.m. and we had to
get up and make our linen (last, etc.). We worked the rest of
the day on our regular routine. After supper they told us
that none of us could go ashore and made us stand by. We
pulled out about 10:30 p.m. and finally turned in after a
16-hour day.

The first day out I had a talk with the steward about
the room. I learned that they had planned on giving us the
room but when Mr. Herbert saw it he told the captain not to
give it to us. The big stiff. Well, anyway, we are settled

and are comfortable, as we have had time to get lockers, wash buckets, etc. I haven't any dirty clothes on hand as I wash them as soon as they get dirty.

I have some good news. Three days out of Pedro, after we had finished scrubbing down the decks and cleaning the ship up generally, the mate told one of us to go up to the wheel house and learn how to steer. I told Jack to go and so he did. The next day they called me up and taught me how to steer. Then they took two A.B.'s off their watches and put Jack and I on. They also took another kid out of the crew and put him in an A.B.'s place. My watch is from eight to twelve. I am on with the German boy Alfonse I was telling you about. This is about my schedule:

8 to 10 a m--	steer
10 to 12--	do manual labor under the boatswain's direction

and the comfortable, as we have had time to get looking
west, looking, etc. I haven't any dirty clothes on hand as
I want them as soon as they get dirty.
I have some good news. Three days out of Petro, after
we had finished scrubbing down the house and cleaning the
ship up generally, the mate told one of us to go up to the
wheel house and learn how to steer. I told Jack to go and
so he did. The next day they called me up and taught me how
to steer. Then they took two A.B.'s off their watches and
put Jack and I on. They also took another kid out of the
crew and put him in as A.B.'s place. My watch is from eight
to twelve. I am on with the German boy Alfonso. I was telling
you about. This is about my schedule:
8 to 10 a.m. - watch
10 to 12 -- the main job when the
boatman's attention

12 to 12:30 p m	--eat
12:30 to 1:30	--fool around in general
1:30 to 4	--sleep
4 to 5	--wash up. (I take a bath every day.)
5 to 5:30	--eat
5:30 to 8	--do anything
8 to 10	--steer
10 to 12 p m	--on watch on the focs'l head
12 to 7 a m	--sleep
7 to 8	--eat and wash

then the same schedule again. It is really the best watch of the bunch, as it is the only one in which you eat your meals regularly and you don't have to get up in the middle of the night. Jack's watch is from twelve to four.

Steering is the easiest job on the ship ~~and~~ but it isn't so darned easy. To get an idea of how it is, stand up with your feet wide apart (to keep from getting upset when the ship lurches) and place your hands on a chair. Glue your

eyes on the top of the chair and stand there for two hours not speaking or moving. That is steering, except that you are continually turning a wheel that turns about as easy as the cad does when it is standing still.

It is sure hot enough these days. Everybody is sleeping on the poop deck. They have the canvas spread and at night when there is enough wind or rain it is cool enough to get a little sleep. We ran into a heavy squall about 12:30 last night.

Mother, I wish you would tell your friend at the Y. M. C. A., who said we were foolish not to go in the engine room, this: every day some one passes out down there from the heat. This morning the thermometer in the engine room was at 131. Also, their quarters are worse than ours.

eyes on the top of the shaft and about there for two hours
not working or moving. That is all right, except that you
are continually turning a wheel that turns about as easy

as the end does when it is standing still.
It is sure not enough these days. Everywhere is rising

on the poor dock. They have the canvas spread and at night
when there is enough wind or rain it is cool enough to get a
little sleep. We ran into a heavy squall about 12:30 last
night.

Mother, I wish you would tell your friend at the Y. M.
C. A., who said we were foolish not to go in the engine room.
That every day some one passes out down there from the heat.
This morning the thermometer in the engine room was at 111.
Aha, their quarters are worse than ours.

Tuesday
started

Well, a lot has happened since I ~~wrote~~ this letter. Tomorrow we are due in Panama. Believe me, any country is going to look good to me, as we haven't seen land since we left Pedro 12 days ago. We are going to take on about 3,000 barrels of oil in Balboa and so I hope to get a chance to go ashore. Believe me, I am going to be all eyes when we pull through the Canal day after tomorrow. Last Friday we got a wireless message saying that the Canal had caved in for a mile and a half and that we would probably have to go around the Horn. I was surely relieved to find that it was false.

For almost a week the sea has been alive with flying fish, turtles (8 ft. in diameter) dolphins, porpoises and sharks. There is something to see in the water almost

Thursday
March 1st

Well, a lot has happened since I wrote this letter.
Tomorrow we are due in Panama. Believe me, my country is
going to look good to me, as we haven't seen it since we
left twelve days ago. We are going to take on about
2,000 barrels of oil in Balboa and so I hope to get a chance
to go ashore. Believe me, I am going to be all eyes when we
pull through the Canal Bay at tomorrow. Last Friday we
got a wireless message saying that the Canal had saved in
for a mile and a half and that we would probably have to go
around the Horn. I was entirely relieved to find that it was
false.

For almost a week we have been alive with living
fish, turtles (8 ft. in diameter), dolphins, porpoises and
snakes. There is something to see in the water almost

continually.

Last night while I was on watch we ran into a thunder storm. The rain almost washed me overboard. The weather is surely peculiar. One day it will be so rough that the water washes and splashes clear into the wheel house. The next day it will be smoother than Lake Merritt. Some days it's hot and other days the sun never shines. But no matter whether it is hot or cold it is sultry. There never is that bitey cold like San Francisco fog, and it always seems hard to get a deep breath.

I haven't been seasick yet, although I had indigestion for four days. Believe the sharks in this region are sure overeating. The hard part of it was to convince the crew that it wasn't seasickness. Anyhow I haven't missed any work. One of the disagreeable jobs that I have done considerable of,

continues...
...The rain almost washed the weather in
...The next day
...it will be another fine day like this
...and other days the sun never shines. But no matter whether
...it is hot or cold it is healthy. There never is that biting
...cold like San Francisco fog, and it always seems hard to get
...a deep breath.

I haven't been essential yet, although I had intention
...for four days. Believe the same in this region the water
...overseeing. The first part of it was to combine the other
...that it wasn't essential. Anyway I haven't missed any work
...One of the big people jobs that I have done consistently at

is painting the decks with fish oil, close to a ventilator from which the sweet, sickening smell of alfalfa and cow hides is coming.

I suppose by the time you get this letter you will have returned from Del Mar, Emily will have forgotten her birthday and I will be in Boston. As I can't send anything now, will Mr. Lowry be so kind as to take \$2.50 from my reserve fund and turn it over to Emily to celebrate her 14th birthday with.

Well, I will have to close, as I am afraid if I borrow any more paper from Jack he will break my neck.

Hoping you are the same, yours lovingly,

Dick.

is possible the check with this bill, close to a valuation
from which the check, making credit of all bills and see
higher in coming.

I suppose by the time you get this letter you will have
received from Bob that Emily will have forgotten her birthday
and I will be in Boston. As I can't send anything now, will
Mr. Lorry be so kind as to take \$8.50 from my reserve fund
and turn it over to Emily to celebrate her 14th birthday with.
Well, I will have to close, as I am afraid if I don't
you are more than ever from Jack he will break my heart.
Hoping you are the same, yours lovingly,
Dick.